Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0006] on page 2, with the following amended paragraph:
--'Skipping' is a technique to improve query evaluation performance by including synchronization points (skip entries) in a compressed inverted ~~inverted~~ list, to provide additional locations at which decompressing can commence. Skipping allows a relevant portion of a compressed list to be identified and decompressed, without decompressing the entire list.--